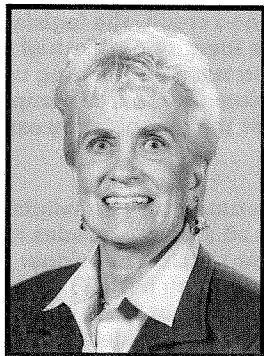


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator

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November 22, 2004

**MICHIGAN CELEBRATES ADOPTION DAY** Michigan will hold its second annual Adoption Day Tuesday, November 23, with a theme of "Giving Thanks for Families." The event is sponsored by the Michigan Family Independence Agency and the Michigan Supreme Court. With collaboration from local FIA offices and private adoption agencies, 42 participating counties will finalize adoptions on Adoption Day, while additional counties will hold informational open houses where FIA offices and their courts will provide handouts and other information to people interested in the adoption process. Michigan's event will help celebrate National Adoption Month in November, where November 20 has been designated National Adoption Day. For more information in regard to Adoption Day, including an updated list of participating courts, please visit FIA's website at [www.michigan.gov/fia](http://www.michigan.gov/fia), or contact your local FIA office.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Currently, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. This date was set by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and approved by Congress in 1941. Prior to 1939, however, Thanksgiving Day was celebrated on the last Thursday in November, as established by President Abraham Lincoln.

**ADOPT A MICHIGAN GUARD FAMILY** The Michigan National Guard Adopt-A-Family Program is an opportunity for organizations and families to reach out and support a family. The Adopt-A-Family Program, coordinated through the State Family Program Office in Lansing, is seeking organizations and families interested in sponsoring a Michigan National Guard family. Families needing assistance are required to submit an application. Applications for both families and sponsors/contributors will be matched up to meet the needs of both parties. Many service members are serving overseas while their families are trying to make the best of the holiday season without them. Traditionally, families have received Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Christmas gifts have included a clothing outfit for each family member and a few toys for each child. Organizations and businesses who would like to adopt-a-family or need more information should contact the Family Program Office at (517) 702-5116 or (517) 702-5117.

**IDENTITY THEFT** The holiday shopping season begins this week for most Michigan residents. Unfortunately, it also brings an increase in reported identity theft cases. Identity thieves prey on unsuspecting shoppers by stealing credit card numbers to start fraudulent bank or charge accounts. Victims are often unaware of the crime until they are denied credit or contacted by collection agencies in regard to bad debts and the road to proving their innocence and repairing their credit record can be long and strenuous. The Legislature recently passed a package of bills that provides state residents with some of the strongest protections against identity theft in the country. In addition to making it easier for victims to re-establish their good credit, the legislation also extends the statute of limitations for ID thefts to six years after the crime was committed or the identity of the thief was established. Protect yourself and your credit this holiday season by only carrying the credit cards you need and tearing up or shredding anything with your credit card or Social Security numbers on it. The Federal Trade Commission offers a free pamphlet with more information on how citizens can help prevent having their identities stolen. You can request the pamphlet by calling toll-free 1-877-438-4338, or by visiting my website at [www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom).

**STUDENTS INVITED TO DESIGN MICHIGAN WILD TURKEY PATCH** Michigan students have an opportunity to help wildlife in Michigan by designing a patch for the third annual wild turkey patch contest. The contest is open to all students grades K-12. The winning design will be incorporated into the 2006 Michigan wild turkey management cooperator patch. The winner and his or her parents or guardians will be invited to the Michigan chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) banquet in January 2005, where the winner will receive a \$100 award. The cooperator patch program was launched in 1972, when the Michigan Department of Natural Resources provided patches to deer hunters as an incentive to bring harvested deer into DNR check stations. Cooperator patches for turkeys and bears also were added to help collect management data for these animals. The Michigan chapter of the NWTf now facilitates the production of the wild turkey management cooperator patch, which is available to anyone. Sales and proceeds are used to support wild turkey-related projects in Michigan. The Michigan Chapter of the NWTf, Project WILD, and the DNR are sponsoring this year's contest. For more information and complete contest rules, contact Dale Elshoff at 517-432-7651. All entries must be postmarked by December 9, 2004.

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If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at [SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov)